The A. F. of L. Weekly News Service gives news accounts and editorial interpretations of matters affecting labor occurring in the industrial, legislative, and judicial fields, and contains other information of benefit to the trade union movement.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE

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WHOLE NO. 1750 | WILLIAM GREEN, President | WASHINGTON, D. C., TUESDAY, OCTOBER 24, 1944 | GEORGE MEANY, Secretary-Treasurer | VOL. 34, NO. 43

FACING the FACTS

With PHILIP PEARL

The heat of the election campaign will have subsided by the time the American Federation of Labor opens its sixty-fourth annual convention at New Orleans on Nov. 20 so that it will be possible to consider the great issues facing the nation calmly and in their proper perspective.

Right now these issues are so inextricably interwoven in the campaign that one can scarcely think about them without becoming involved in partisan politics.

Nevertheless, we are going to try to outline in advance some of the major problems which will come up for discussion at the convention so that the members of the American Federation of Labor will know what to look forward to when the convention begins.

First and foremost, the chief task still before us is to win the war in the shortest time possible. Toward that end, we are confident that the convention will give a whole-hearted endorsement to the continuation of the no-strike pledge. That pledge was given freely and voluntarily by labor for the duration and labor is determined to keep its word. If we are any judge, it will be made clear that the "duration" means complete victory over Japan as well as Germany.

Break Wage Freeze

At the same time, the delegates will insist that the Government keep its side of the bargain. That means a strong demand for breaking of the wage freeze promptly. The "Little Steel" formula was an added starter to the agreement which resulted in the no-strike pledge and it has become completely intolerable so far as the workers of the nation are concerned. Not only to avoid immediate suffering but also to pave the way for stability and economic justice in the post-war period, the wage freeze must be relaxed and hourly rates of pay must be adjusted realistically to meet higher living costs.

The second major issue will be the formulation of an effective program for the establishment and maintenance of world peace. The American Federation of Labor already has gone on record, far in advance of most other groups, in favor of an international organization to keep the peace—by force, if necessary.

It remains to be seen whether the delegates will be content with a generalized statement to that effect or whether they will go further and advocate specific steps to implement the international organization.

Without question, the delegates will call for full labor representation at the peace conference and they will have something to say, too, on the conditions which should be imposed on enemy nations after victory. If past policy is any criterion, we would be inclined to predict that the Federation will urge encouragement to labor in Italy and Germany when the fighting ends. The establishment of free, democratic trade union movements in those countries, the AFL believes, will be the best insurance against the revival of any fascist tendencies there.

Home Front Problems

But home front problems, being closer to the minds of the delegates, will probably occupy chief attention. We have already mentioned the question of wage adjustment. Even more basic than this will be the demand for quick reconversion, orderly shifting of production from a wartime to a peacetime basis and the creation of millions of new jobs to take up the slack of expected post-war unemployment.

The convention, we expect, will insist that Government, industry and labor get together immediately on the formulation of an intelligent and effective post-war program.

Henry Kaiser already has pointed the way by showing how a well-organized construction program can provide thirty million new jobs in the post-war era. But no one man can do this job alone. It requires full cooperation of Government—Federal, State and local—of industry in all its branches and of the labor movement.

Above all, the Government must inspire confidence in the post-war future of our country and offer opportunity and inducement to private enterprise to get busy and expand post-war production the moment the war situation permits.

Labor realizes that only through maximum production can its goal of full employment be attained.

Also, labor is fully aware of the need of expanding our social insurance system to tide the American people over the critical period between the end of the war and the upsurge of peacetime production. This insurance is needed by the returning veterans of the war as well as by war workers. Its enactment can no longer be delayed with safety to the nation.

British Labor Insists Upon Payment Of Full Reparations By Germany

Blackpool, England.—Defeat of Germany and Japan must be followed by payment of reparations, the British Trades Union Congress declared at its 76th annual convention here.

The resolution disclaimed any advocacy of a "punitive" peace or any kind of settlement which "would perpetuate hatred and racial antagonisms" but insisted that the countries plundered and exploited by the Nazis have a just claim to reparations "which must be paid in full and cannot be paid in money alone."

The convention was attended by 725 delegates representing 6,642,317 members of 190 affiliated unions. These figures showed an increase in membership of 617,906 over last year. However, the number of affiliated unions was reduced by forty due to a re-arrangement in the affiliation of cotton textile unions which are now represented through their central organizations instead of through district groups, as formerly.

Fraternal delegates to the convention from the American Federation of Labor are Hugo Ernst, Secretary-Treasurer of the Hotel and Restaurant Employes International Alliance and Bartenders International League of North America, and Holt Ross, international representative of the International Hod Carriers, Building and Common Laborers Union of America. Both delegates reported to the convention on changing conditions in the United States.

Speakers to the convention declared that there will be need during the immediate post-war period of temporary extension of war-time controls over labor and industry, but emphasized that such controls cannot be effectively maintained without full trade union representation in the government.

Heroism Of Dutch Workers Hailed

(In a deserved tribute to the heroism of Dutch railroad workers, who have been carrying on a strike against their Nazi oppressors, the Washington Post hailed them in an editorial as "unconquerable." This is another instance of the inspired resistance to Hitler displayed by workers throughout occupied Europe. The editorial follows:)

For a full month there has been a railroad strike going on in the Netherlands. Its significance, and the heroism it entails, have been somewhat obscured, perhaps, by the march into Germany itself of the fighters in uniform. But the striking Dutch railroad workers, themselves civilian fighters behind the front lines, have contributed significantly to the progress of the Allied armies. And they have done so at a sacrifice which, when at last the full story can be told, cannot fail to excite the admiration and gratitude of all free men.

On September 17, the Netherlands government in London issued a call over Radio Orange for a general strike by all Dutch rail workers. The purpose was to hamper German troop and supply movements in order to permit Allied airborne forces to consolidate their positions. The response to the strike call is said to have been overwhelming. All trains were halted and this no doubt helped greatly in establishment of the salient at Nijmegen and the isolation of German divisions along coastal lowlands. At Arnheim, however, the British paratroopers were finally forced to withdraw. And the harsh fact is that most of the territory of the Netherlands still remains in Nazi hands.

But the strike of the Dutch railroad workers continues, and the Nazis have been able to operate only the few trains they could man with German crews. What a strike means in territory under Nazi control can only be imagined. The most ruthless measures of terror and reprisal have been taken against the Dutch. The families of strikers have been seized as hostages. Two villages, Putten and Berkel, have been burned to the ground. Food and the coal necessary to pump seawater from the land have been denied to the whole Dutch population—all to bring the strikers to heel. But neither they, nor their countrymen who are made to suffer for their resistance, show any disposition to yield to these brutal pressures. They remain unconquerable.

RAILWAY PATROLMEN WIN LEGAL BATTLE

Washington, D. C.—The National Council of Railway Patrolmen's Unions, AFL affiliate, won the first round in a legal battle against the Union Pacific Railroad Company which sought to have special agents, watchmen and guards excluded from the protection of the Railway Labor Act by having them defined as not being "employes" within the meaning of that law.

The case was heard before Examiner Claude A. Rice, appointed by the Interstate Commerce Commission. He ruled flatly in favor of the union. The argument was handled for the union by James H. Glenn of Joseph A. Padway's office.

Green Urges Central Labor Unions To Help Army Find Jobs For G. I. Joes

Washington, D. C.—AFL President William Green called upon the Federation's 900 central labor unions in the nation's principal cities to cooperate closely with the War Department in helping demobilized servicemen to find jobs in civilian life.

In a circular letter to the labor unions, Mr. Green emphasized:

"The American Federation of Labor has a keen interest in helping these servicemen to readjust to civilian life as union members."

In requesting the local union officials to cooperate with the War Department, Mr. Green pointed out:

"The War Department in planning for demobilization is setting up nineteen separation centers through which those in the service will return to civilian life, and one hundred and seventy hospital separation classification sections in various parts of the country.

"The War Department is anxious to have these separation centers equipped with information that will aid discharged men and women in reestablishing themselves in civilian life. The officers in charge of these centers need the data that will enable them to refer discharged persons to sources of aid and information.

"Many of these discharged persons will want information on what unions to apply to for membership and other information. They will want to know about union policies, and rules and regulations affecting those who desire to train for special occupations.

"The best way to meet this request of the War Department is to furnish these centers with information, so that they may refer the persons who want help directly to the nearest central labor union. The central labor union, in turn, must be equipped to refer the applicant to the proper union official who can answer the applicant's questions."

WLB Approves Time Off With Pay So Workers Can Vote On Nov. 7

Washington, D. C.—The National War Labor Board has given its official approval to the extension of time off with pay to workers so that they can have full opportunity to vote on Election Day.

The board's resolution follows:

"Employers who grant their employes time off on election day to vote, without deduction from pay, will not be considered to have granted wage or salary increases in violation of the wage stabilization program."

Recently, Secretary of War Stimson, Secretary of the Navy Forrestal and WPB Chairman J. A. Krug joined in a statement appealing to war industries to make special provision for their employes to vote.

Some employers previously contended it would be a violation of WLB rules if they gave their workers time off to vote without making pay deductions for the time lost.

AFL Asks WPB For 30 Days Notice Of Planned Cutbacks In War Output

Washington, D. C.—The American Federation of Labor urged the War Production Board to give union officials thirty days advance notice of cutbacks or contract terminations in war industries.

AFL President William Green told WPB Chairman J. A. Krug that if such a policy were followed it would avert confusion and needless unemployment and suffering.

The conference was called in compliance with a recent directive by War Mobilization Director Byrnes requiring that labor and management be given as much advance warning as possible of pending reductions in war orders.

Labor leaders had complained that sometimes cutbacks were ordered with only a few days notice. They emphasized that statements relative to expected 40 per cent cuts in war production after victory in Europe have upset workers throughout the country, even those employed in plants which will not be affected at all.

Advance information will enable many industries to avoid the necessity of discharging employes by obtaining materials and orders for civilian goods, Mr. Green said. In this way reconversion can proceed on a more orderly and efficient basis, he stressed.

Meanwhile, the WPB declared that no large cutbacks are in sight until complete victory in Europe.

War Production Board figures revealed that 85,000 employes of prime contractors have been displaced by cutbacks since June 15, or fewer than one in 1,000 war workers. Lay-off figures, however, do not show what the impact might be on subcontractors.

Official sources said that if the fighting in Europe runs deep in 1944 "more and more runouts"—contracts completed and not renewed—will take place.

This would mean a gradual tapering-off next year, so that V-E day would bring a smaller industrial dislocation than the 40 per cent slash officially predicted. "Runouts" are less feared, by business and labor alike, than sudden contract cancellations by the Army and Navy, because firms can make advance preparations for other war or civilian work.

In the months since the armed services began reporting cutbacks, it was disclosed, those large enough to be reported have numbered 800, representing armament cuts of about $980,000,000.

Fewer than a dozen, however, have had serious repercussions on employment in the cities involved, and in many cases the lay-offs expected by Washington authorities did not take place or were substantially lower than estimated.

Many curtailments were cancellations of future increases rather than cuts in current production. Others simply brought manufacturers' schedules down to goals that could be met.

In some cases hardship has resulted from cutbacks, especially where they fell in smaller communities. Such instances will continue, officials said, but in most cases the cancellations occurred in production centers where managements could get new orders or employes could locate new jobs readily.

AMERICAN FEDERATIONIST CLEARS UP QUESTION

The American Federationist for October carried on its back cover a non-partisan "get out and vote" message emphasizing the duty of Americans to cast their ballots on election day.

There appeared at the bottom of the page an illustration showing a pencil in the hands of an individual and a ballot directly underneath. By sheer chance the pencil was in close proximity to the voting space assigned to one of the political parties.

Because of this, some readers of the Federationist have suggested that the Federationist was showing partiality, notwithstanding the fact that the text of the message emphasized the traditional non-partisan political policy of the American Federation of Labor.

The question having been raised, the Federationist states that the position of the pencil in the illustration over a given column of the ballot was entirely devoid of political significance and that the pencil was so placed entirely by chance.

Since the next issue of the Federationist will not appear until after election day, this means of clearing the record is being taken.

AFL DEFEATS UMW IN NLRB ELECTION

Fairfield, Conn.—An American Federation of Labor union defeated the "catch-all" District 50 of the United Mine Workers in a National Labor Relations Board election among employes of the Fairfield Lumber Co. here by a vote of 93 to 48.

AFL GROUP CELEBRATES ITS NO-STRIKE RECORD

Adrian, Mich.—The 4,300 members of AFL unions organized in Lenawee County are so proud of their no-strike record that they arranged a Hallowe'en ball to celebrate their contributions to the war effort and to re-dedicate themselves to greater production.

Since Pearl Harbor these AFL workers have had an almost perfect record of staying on the job under any and all conditions. In almost three years there was only a single interruption of work, involving a few workers for five days.

11,000 STEADY JOBS OPEN IN TACOMA

Tacoma, Wash.—The need for manpower in war industries is shifting to the Pacific Coast as the war with Japan is prosecuted with greater intensity. This city is now designated as one of the most critical labor shortage areas in the United States by the War Manpower Commission.

A recent check shows more than 11,000 openings in the Tacoma office of the United States Employment Service for men and women workers. Large Army and Navy installations, airplane assembly plants, shipyards constructing aircraft carriers, railroad shops, powder plants and lumber and plywood mills are among many industries seeking help.

Army, Navy and federal officials agree that there will be no cutbacks in Tacoma when the war with Germany ends but that there will be an increasing demand for more manpower.

Weekly Radio Programs Scheduled By AFL In 1945

Labor's Views Will Be Carried By Networks In New Setup

Washington, D. C.—The American Federation of Labor has completed arrangements for the most ambitious and comprehensive radio educational program in its history.

Beginning next Jan. 7, the Federation will broadcast a weekly radio program over a national network each and every week of the year, President William Green announced.

Time for these programs was made available to the American Federation of Labor by three national broadcasting chains as a public service and in recognition of the important place which labor holds in the life of the nation.

The programs will be carried by the National Broadcasting Company for the first thirteen weeks of 1945; by the Columbia Broadcasting System the following thirteen weeks and by the Blue Network for the remaining twenty-six weeks.

The Mutual Broadcasting System said it could not participate by allotting a regular series of programs but will make available an equivalent amount of time for broadcasts of special events and features by the American Federation of Labor from time to time during the year.

"By means of these radio programs," Mr. Green declared, "the American Federation of Labor will be able to present its news and views directly to the American people and to its seven million members.

"It is our purpose to make these programs as interesting and informative as possible. We are determined to build up a large and regular audience for these programs. To that end, I urge all central labor unions and State Federations of Labor to persuade their local radio stations to carry the Federation's programs offered by the national networks.

"Likewise, I urge all members of the American Federation of Labor to listen to these programs and to persuade their families and friends to tune in regularly.

"The American Federation of Labor appreciates the opportunity offered to it by the radio networks and it believes that their cooperative attitude will go far toward cementing friendly and constructive relations between organized labor and the radio industry."

The plan for expanding the Federation's radio activities was presented to the Executive Council at its meeting last January as the most effective means at hand of creating better understanding of labor's problems and developing greater good will toward labor.

Following the Executive Council's approval of the plan, negotiations were undertaken with representatives of the four radio networks. These negotiations culminated with a luncheon meeting in Washington last August at which Mr. Green presented the Federation's specific proposals to the heads of the four networks. Acceptance was almost immediate.

While many details still remain to be worked out, the following broad outline gives the salient facts of the AFL's 1945 radio schedule as it now shapes up:

The first program will be broadcast over the facilities of the National Broadcasting Company on Sunday, Jan. 7, from 1:15 to 1:30 P.M., Eastern War Time. It will be entitled "Labor Forum." The panel will include an outstanding AFL representative, as well as representatives of business and agriculture. The same pattern will be followed on the next twelve programs. Timely and important topics will be chosen for discussion at each forum. On subsequent NBC programs later in the year under sponsorship of business and farm organizations, the AFL will also have representation.

After the NBC series is concluded, a new series will be broadcast over CBS. This will be an entirely different type of program, featuring interviews with labor leaders and industrial chiefs on plans for reconversion and the creation of new post-war job opportunities. The exact time for this series of programs has not yet been allotted but CBS has assured the Federation a "good spot."

The final series over the Blue Network will be broadcast beginning the second half of the year from 6:45 to 7 P.M., Eastern War Time, each Saturday evening. The nature of these programs will be announced later.

AFL Radio Timetable for '45

The following timetable presents at a glance the tentative schedule for the American Federation of Labor's radio programs to be broadcast each week during 1945:

NBC	*Don't forget it starts Jan. 7*	Name of Program—Labor Forum Day of Week—Sunday Time—1:15 to 1:30 P.M., Eastern War Time Duration—13 weeks
CBS	*This follows NBC program in the Spring*	Name of Program—Help Wanted Day and Time—To be announced later Duration—13 weeks
Blue Network	*This begins in mid-year of 1945*	Name of Program—To be announced later Day of Week—Saturday Time—6:45 to 7 P.M., Eastern War Time Duration—26 weeks

In addition, watch for announcements of spot programs over the Mutual Broadcasting System, which will cover special events and special features of AFL activities.

Kaiser Sees 30 Million Post-War Jobs Created By Big Construction Program

New York City.—Henry J. Kaiser, genius of a far-flung industrial empire, predicted without reservations that jobs for thirty million persons can be created within the first year and a half of peace by intelligent preparation now.

This can be done, he explained to a national forum, through home construction, hospital construction and socialized medicine, development of transportation facilities and construction of highways and airports. These alone would provide jobs for 11,500,000, he estimated, and he reminded his listeners that the activity of each of these workers would provide jobs for two in the service industries.

Mr. Kaiser insisted that labor must benefit from the improved technology of the world ahead if the booms and depressions of the business cycle are to be avoided. In pre-war economics, he asserted, reductions in cost too often were made at the expense of labor, with a resultant decline in purchasing power.

"Jobs for All," which was the topic of Mr. Kaiser's address, could well be the first slogan for a "just and lasting peace," he said. This followed his definition of as meaning more than just a cessation of hostilities. "Peace," he said, "is a state of mind. It is based on the sense of security. There can be no peace in the individual soul unless there is peace in the souls of all with whom we must live and work."

Discussing the problem of building homes, Mr. Kaiser announced his conviction that 2,000,000 homes should be built for ownership or rental in the first year and a half after conversion. This would mean, by his estimates, an expenditure of $8,000,000,000 and immediate employment for 4,000,000 workers. In addition, he said, there is a demand for $3,000,000,000 worth of repairs in existing housing, which could employ an additional 1,400,000.

But Mr. Kaiser would not be content with just the erection of homes. He would provide their occupants with health service on a self-sustaining basis, at a price within reach of all. "The cost of such medical care," he suggested, "might be incorporated in the monthly payments on the home, freeing the American family from the fear of illness and loss of income."

Expanding on the subject of health, Mr. Kaiser declared that if American industry would build and equip modern hospitals in 1,000 communities in the first year after the war the $500,000,000 so expended would generate employment for 250,000 workers. Prepaid medical services could then be organized around the hospital facilities, he said, adding that "organized medicine is beginning to see the wisdom of this sound principle."

He next considered highways, envisioning them as great six and eight lane arterials lined with trees, lawns and parks which would open up the suburbs for the health and happiness of congested metropolitan millions. The President's Committee on Highways recommends the expenditure of $3,000,000,000 annually, and Mr. Kaiser estimated that this would supply jobs for 1,500,000.

"Dare to envision 5,000 airports ready to serve the youth who have learned to live and work in the air," Mr. Kaiser said, proceeding to the next item in the job program. "The Civil Aeronautics Authority has budgeted a billion dollars of Federal aid for 3,000 such airports. If they are built in the first post-war year, they would supply employment for 450,000 workers."

Such highways and airports will be needed, Mr. Kaiser argued, because automobiles and airplanes "will attract a hundred thousand American families." Automobile manufacture will provide direct employment for 3,275,000, he said, and 225,000 will be needed to build the planes. As for railroads, Mr. Kaiser said that employment in that field alone will call for 400,000 workers, not only for the first years but for a long time.

NLRB Favors CIO By Establishing Seven Western Union Voting Units

Washington, D. C.—Rejecting AFL demands for a single, nation-wide collective bargaining unit for the 60,000 employes of the Western Union Telegraph Company, the National Labor Relations Board, by a two to one majority, called for separate elections in seven geographical divisions.

The effect of the decision is to aid the CIO American Communications Association to maintain its hold on one or two local unions, since the Commercial Telegraphers Union of the AFL has an admitted majority of the total Western Union personnel in the country.

The CTU petitioned the NLRB for a single, national unit on the obvious ground that it would be to the best interests of the workers and the industry alike to have a national collective bargaining agreement and avoid dual unionism.

This view was upheld by Board Member Gerald D. Reilly. In dissenting from the majority decision that conditions are now too "unsettled and abnormal" to set up a single unit "which by its nature tends to finality," Mr. Reilly said:

"If by 'finality' is meant an election which would have the necessary result of ending the position of either one contesting union or the other, two observations should be made: (1) This was precisely the effect of the prior Board decision in Postal, of which the ACA was the beneficiary; and, (2) It is not the policy of the Wagner Act to promote dual unionism in the same field."

The CIO had asked the board for 100 separate units.

ITU CHIEF APPOINTS EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

Indianapolis—Woodruff Randolph, president of the International Typographical Union, announced the appointment of Harry A. Reifin as his executive secretary and assistant. Mr. Reifin, for more than five years, has been employed by the Wage-Hour and Public Contracts Divisions of the United States Department of Labor.

Mr. Reifin formerly was a Michigan representative of the Typographical Union and was active in the organization of many of the larger printing establishments and trade plants in the Detroit area. He also worked as a printer on the Detroit News. From 1935 to 1939, Mr. Reifin was president of the Detroit Allied Printing Trades Council.

STRIKE BAN UPHELD BY N. J. FEDERATION

Atlantic City, N. J.—A resolution reaffirming the no-strike pledge for the duration of the war was adopted by the New Jersey State Federation of Labor, as it concluded its 66th annual convention at the Claridge Hotel here.

The convention also adopted resolutions favoring a world organization backed by force, if necessary, urging extension of the OPA after the war, criticizing the War Labor Board for "long delays" in settling labor disputes and asking that it be discontinued after the war. Others demanded an end to the Little Steel formula and petitioned Congress to prepare a program of Federal works for use "if private capital fails to maintain full employment."

Louis P. Marciante of Trenton was elected to his 11th term as president of the organization, and Mayor Vincent J. Murphy of Newark was re-elected secretary-treasurer.